

Malden Historic District
(4312 Malden Drive)
Malden
Kanawha County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-15

HABS
WVA,
20-MALD,
16-

~~PHOTOGRAPHS~~

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HABS
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20-MALD,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4312 Malden Drive HABS No. WV-210-15

Location: 4312 Malden Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner: Mrs. Grace Stone, 407 Wayne Drive, Malden, West Virginia
25306

Present Use: Dwelling

Significance: This house is an exact contemporary of its neighbor, 4208 Malden Drive, both dating from 1838. However, its derivation from the Federal style is much more direct, having both the simplicity and the symmetry one would expect. The major recent change to the principal facade, a front porch built to replace an earlier porch which was recently destroyed, is sympathetic to the original mode though not a duplicate of its predecessor. The interior spatial arrangement of the building has been altered very little during its lifetime. Both the lack of substantial internal renovation and the careful maintenance of the exterior have left the town a very well-preserved example of its more imposing early nineteenth-century residences. The house is rated by the National Register Nomination Form as making a major contribution to the Malden Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1838.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The lot on which the house stands was originally owned by David Ruffner. Henry Robinson and his wife acquired the property and sold it to John B. Smith on December 25, 1843, as recorded in Deed Book N at page 400 at the Kanawha County Courthouse. There is mention of a house on the lot at that time. Smith conveyed to Thayer on October 23, 1857 (Deed Book V, page 231); and Thayer, to Samuel Christy on April 3, 1864 (Deed Book 2, page 228). Samuel Christy sold the property to Albert M. Doyle, Trustee, on June 1, 1875 (Deed Book 31, page 8). On May 4, 1881, Samuel Christy conveyed the property to Mineva Hix, wife of William Hix, (Deed Book 36, page 213), who in turn conveyed it to Job E. Thayer in 1889, and then to William B. Calderwood, also in 1889. William Calderwood willed the property to his Annie (1904), who devised it to Leonard Schroath and Lucy Schroath on September 15, 1920, (Deed Book 215, page 82). Leonard Schroath died and left the property to his wife Lucy and her three children Fred, Grace and Alfred.

Lucy willed the property to the same three children. Fred sold his 1/3 interest to Grace and Alfred. Later, on July 25, 1947, Alfred Schroath and his wife conveyed the property to Grace Lucillie Stone, as recorded at the Kanawha County Courthouse in Deed Book 820 at page 466. Grace Stone is the present owner.

4. Alterations and additions: the replacement of the front porch following an automobile accident, and the enclosure of the back porch in the 1920s to make a pantry and utility room, are the only major changes made. The brick has been painted, and the original sash have been replaced by one-over-one-light first-floor sash and two-over-two-light second-floor sash. Aluminum storm windows have been added on the first floor. Chain-link fencing has replaced an earlier picket fence.
- B. Historical Context: The property was originally owned by David Ruffner. The Ruffners owned most of the southern portion of Malden and were prominent salt and land entrepreneurs. The Leonard Schroath family, owners of the house in the 1920s, were natives of Germany.

Prepared by Donna Sue White
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey Team
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This substantial two-story five-bayed brick house with its roof ridge parallel to the street is one of the three oldest dwellings in Malden. Built in 1838, it is generally late Federal in style, but the small brackets supporting the eaves presage the Italianate style. The new front porch is appropriate to the character of the house.
2. Condition of fabric: Maintained with care.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is approximately 42'-4" in width and 49'-10" in depth. The building consists of a two-story, rectangular main block extended to the east by a one-story addition, resulting in an ell-shaped plan.
2. Foundations: Foundations are of carefully set ashlar masonry of a light grayish-brown stone.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are of brick painted white. The brick pattern is Flemish bond on the west front and running bond elsewhere. All wooden trim is painted white, with the exception of the shutters, which are painted black.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A one-story porch extends across the central three bays of the five-bay front on Malden Drive. This new concrete slab porch with classicistic columns replaced an earlier porch which was recently destroyed.
5. Chimneys: There are two brick end chimneys which occur on the main block, one at each gable end. Neither is expressed on the exterior walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doors are of wooden panel construction with a glass transom and side lights occurring at the front door only.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows at the first floor level are double-hung one-over-one wooden sash units, while those at the second floor level are two-over-two units. Most windows are flanked by louvered wooden shutters.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The roof of the main block is a simple gable roof whose ridge runs in a north/south direction. The roof of the rear addition is also gabled. The front porch has a hipped roof which slopes in three directions away from the front wall plane. All roofs are covered with black asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves of the main block project approximately 1'-6" beyond the exterior walls. Triangular brackets occur beneath the cornice on all four sides of the main block. No brackets occur on the rear addition.
- C. Site: The front of the house faces west onto Malden Drive, being situated very close to the street.

Prepared by James Murray Howard
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
July 1979

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Old Views: Mrs. Grace Stone, 4200 Malden Drive, has a picture of house taken in 1920s before it was painted and the picket fence was removed.

Bibliography: Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse.

Recorded:

Deed Book N at page 400

V at page 231

2 at page 228

31 at page 8

36 at page 213

215 at page 32

820 at page 466

"The Town I Always Call Home," Charleston Daily Mail, April 14, 1973.

Interview: Mrs. Grace Stone, 407 Wayne Drive, Malden, West Virginia. (Present owner)

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.

See Malden Historic District (HABS No. WV-210), sheet 7 of 9, for elevation drawing.